

To the Hon^{ble} the Commons in Parliament Assembled.

The Humble Petition of the poor Prisoners for Debt, in His Majesties Prisons, the Fleet, Ludgate, and Newgate.

Sheweth,

THAT whereas several of your Petitioners in the late unhappy Times, and since by other Casualties and Misfortunes, sustained great Losses; By reason whereof your Petitioners being involved in Debt, were rendred and become utterly unable to Pay the same; Whereupon your Petitioners were cast into Prison, and have there lain for a long time in great Want and Misery, in a Distressed, Deplorable, and Ruinated Condition; insomuch, That our Families are in all probability likely to be burthensom to the Nation, unless by an Act of Mercy We may be delivered from this Bondage: That we may when at Liberty, by our own Labour and Industry, provide maintenance for our selves and them, and be in some measure serviceable to our Most Gracious King and Country.

And whereas there hath been Report made, which may be now alleged by some Merciless Creditors, who desire not only the Estate, but also the very Bones of their Debtors, That our late Sovereigns Gracious Act for Discharge of poor Prisoners was abused; and by that means may endeavour to hinder and obstruct the passing of a Bill in order thereto; Nevertheless your Petitioners are in stedfast hopes, That no such means or other Arguments shall be prevalent to dissuade you from the doing of so Charitable a Work, for the Relieving of us who design no Evil; it being also, if considered, for the advantage of the Creditor. And consequently will take off a Burthen falling upon the Nation, as will appear by a Bill prepared by your Petitioners, annexed to our Petition to the House; which is by us presented to the Honourable ~~the~~ *Speaker*, to be by him presented on our behalf.

Wherefore your Petitioners do in most humble manner beg your serious Consideration of this our most miserable and unhappy state and condition, and that you will of your Christian Compassion and Tenderneſs towards your distressed Petitioners, vouchsafe to call for our Petition and Bill to be Read; and furthermore, That you will of your bountiful Goodness and Charity, use your utmost endeavours by such Methods, as in your Wisdom you shall think meet, whereby we may be hence delivered, and be at Liberty, That we may have an opportunity of manifesting our Loyalty to our Most Gracious King and Country; yea, even to the Sacrificing our Lives in Defence thereof.

And your Petitioners, (as in Duty we are bound, and hereby for ever obliged) shall Pray for your Honours Health and Felicity.